

## Message Text

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17  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

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R 090730Z AUG 76  
FM AMCONSUL MILAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1753

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LEADING PSDI FIGURE

1. LEADING MILAN PSDI FIGURE CALLED ON EXECUTIVE OFFIER  
AUGUST 3. HE EXPRESSED PROFOUND DISTRUST OF PCI AND SAID  
ITALY'S FUTURE DEPENDED NOW ON OUTCOME OF U.S. ELECTIONS  
AS WELL AS DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 1978.  
HE SAW HOPE FOR NEW LAY ALLIANCE, TO INCLUDE SOCIALISTS.

2. PSDI FIGURE, LAWYER WHO HAS SERVED ON MILAN CITY COUNCIL  
AND EXECUTIVE UNTIL 1975 AND WAS RECENT UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE  
FOR SENATE, BEMOANED ADVANCE OF COMMUNISTS OVER YEARS AND  
VOICED PROFOUND DISTRUST OF PCI APPARENT GOOD INTENTIONS.  
THERE IS STRONG, PRO-SOVET COMPONENT IN PCI, HE SAID,  
AND THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOT CHANGED STRIPES. THEY OULD  
RESTRICT OUT LIBERTIES.

3. PSDI MAN SAID THOSE ITALIANS WHO BELIEVE IN DEMO-  
CRACY ARE AWAITING ANXIOUSLY OUTCOME OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS. IF U.S. ABANDONS ITALY TO ITS FATE, THERE  
IS LITTLE TO BE DONE. EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAID HE FELT  
THOSE IN REAL POSITION TO SAVE SITUATION WERE RATHER  
ITALIAN THEMSELVES AND ESPECIALLY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS,  
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WHO NOW HAVE REPRIEVE FROM VOTERS WHICH THEY MUST USE

TO BEST ADVANTAGE. PSDI MAN AGREED.

4. ALSO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITALY, SAID PSDI OFFICIAL, ARE 1978 DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. IF EUROPEANS SUCCEED IN UNIFYING THEMSELVES, COMMUNIST COMPONENT WILL BE SO SMALL AS TO COUNT FOR LITTLE. THAT IS WHY PCI STATEMENTS FAVORING PROGRESS TOWARD UNITED EUROPE ARE SO MUCH EYEWASH. PCI HAS NOTHING TO GAIN FROM SUCH AN OUTCOME. ASKED WHETHER HE HIMSELF MIGHT BE CANDIDATE FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, OFFICIAL PROTESTED THAT HE WAS TOO OLD. BUT AMONG ITALIAN CANDIDATES, THE THOUGHT, THERE WOULD BE FIRST-CLASS PEOPLE.

5. PSDI MAN SAID HE HAD BEEN IN FAVOR OF LAY ALLIANCE BEFORE ELECTIONS AND STILL WAS, BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT IT COMPRISE SOCIALISTS. SUCH ALLIANCE WAS ONLY HOPE FOR SMALL PARTIES AND THEN ONLY IF PSI JOINED UP. HE SAID ALLIANCE WAS STILL POSSIBILITY ALTHOUGH EVERYONE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN ELECTION RESULTS. PART OF REASON FOR POOR SHOWING WAS TEPID SUPPORT GIVEN LAY PARTIES, EVEN FROM FRIENDS. (SARAGAT, HE SAID, WAS INCENSED AT INDRO MONTANELLI'S IL GIORNALE: MONTANELLI WAS ONE OF PRIME SUPPORTERS OF LAY PARTIES UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE ELECTION WHEN HE URGED READERS TO VOTE DC.) IF LAY PARTIES INCLUDING SOCIALISTS WERE TO MAKE REAL EFFORT NEXT TIME AROUND, RESULTS WOULD BE DIFFERENT. WRIGHT

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